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The Broadway of Yesterday

A Collection of 20 Prints of Old Broadway, together with a full description,

By Charles Hemstreet

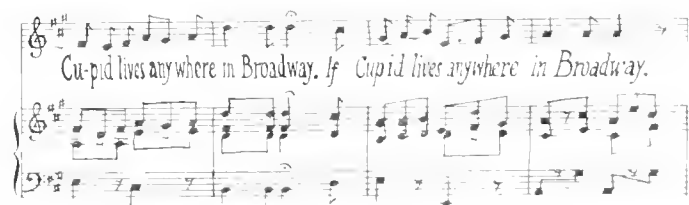
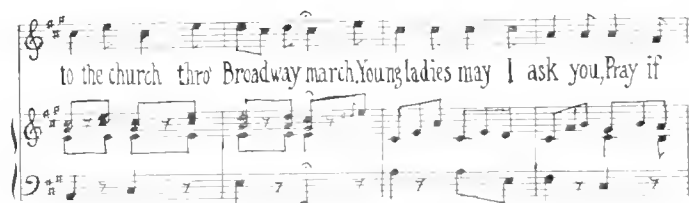
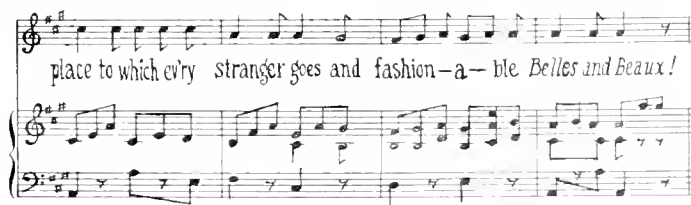
Author of "Nooks and Corners of Old New York," "When Old New York Was Young," Etc.

With a Color Cover Design from Painting by the Artist-Historian

John Rae

For comparison there have been added views of buildings that now stand on the old sites.

BROADWAY, most celebrated of the great streets of the world, had nevertheless a most humble beginning. It has always been the central artery of New York, and the story of Broadway is the history of the city itself. An Indian trail before white men reached the Island of Manhattan, in the days of the Dutch it had grown into a country road called Heere Straat or Breedeweg. The name Broadway or Breedeweg had its origin in the broad way that led from the entrance of the old Fort up to the gate at Wall street. The street was wide near the Fort to give room for the soldiers to drill. This explains the contradiction between the name and appearance of Broadway. When a wall was put about the little town, stretching across the Island on the line of the present Wall street, Breedeweg led directly to the city gate. Beyond the gate it wandered away to the north, and for close upon a hundred years was the only road extending the length of the Island. With the coming of the British, Breedeweg quite naturally changed from a Dutch to an English thoroughfare and became Broadway. At the time of the Revolution, and for many and many a day thereafter, the homes of wealth and fashion bordered Broadway. During the last days of the Knickerbockers—in the late thirties—lower Broadway was still the fashionable promenade, and there yet live many whose young voices mingled in the following popular song of the day:



As sung to great applause by Mr. Latham at Niblo's Garden, June, 1835.

The Broadway of To-Day

Views Showing the Present Aspect of the Old Sites; Pictures Taken from the Same Points of View as the Prints of Corresponding Numbers



FOOT OF BROADWAY
Between Battery Park and Wall St.
(See Print No. 1.)



NOS. 9 AND 11 BROADWAY
Boyling Green Building.
(See Print No. 2.)



NO. 39 BROADWAY,
Between Morris St. and Exchange Place.
(See Print No. 3.)



TRINITY CHURCH,
Broadway, Head of Wall St.
(See Print No. 4.)



BWAY, S. E. OF CEDAR ST.
Between Broadway, Trinity Church
(See Print No. 5.)



BROADWAY, COR. FULTON ST.
(See Print No. 6.)



BROADWAY, COR. VESSEY ST.
St. Paul's and Astor House. (See Print No. 7.)



BROADWAY, S. O. FROM MAIL ST.
Post Office and Astor House
(See Print No. 8.)



BROADWAY, COR. PARK PLACE.
(See Print No. 9.)



CITY HALL AND PARK.
(See Print No. 10.)



BROADWAY, NOS. 55 & 57.
(See Prints Nos. 11 and 12.)



N. E. COR. BWAY & CANAL ST.
(See Print No. 13.)



BWAY, N. E. OF CANAL ST.
(See Print No. 14.)



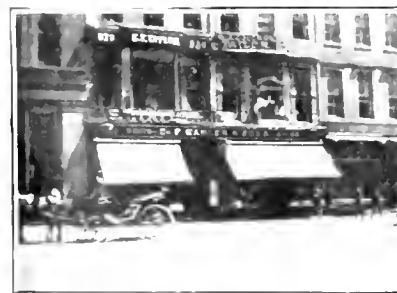
BWAY, GRAND AND HOWARD STS.
(See Print No. 15.)



BWAY, FOURTH AVE. AND 14TH ST.
(See Print No. 16.)



UNION SQUARE WEST.
(See Print No. 17.)



BROADWAY, 10TH ST.
(See Print No. 18.)



BROADWAY AND 10TH ST.
(See Print No. 19.)



BROADWAY AND 23D ST.
(See Print No. 20.)

Print No. 1. Battery and Bowling Green, 1776

The name "Bowling Green" was first given to this open space at the foot of Broadway in 1732, when it was leased for the purpose of a bowling green to three prominent citizens. The rent was one peppercorn per year. During the Revolution the patriots tore down the statue of King George which had been erected there and melted it into bullets. They also broke off the tops of the iron posts of the fence surrounding the Green. The fractures may be seen to this day.

The new Custom House is being erected on the site of the old fortifications, which were demolished about 1787. The Government House, which was erected here to be occupied by the Presidents, was never used for that purpose, the seat of the national government being moved to Philadelphia before the house was completed.

Print No. 2. Coffee House, 1765; No. 11 Broadway

This house was erected about 1730, the garden back of it extending to the river. This was a noted tavern in its day and was called by various names at different times, "King's Arm Tavern," "Atlantic Garden," etc.

Print No. 3. Mansion House, 1831; No. 39 Broadway

These were originally private residences. They were erected about 1780, being among the first to be put up in what was called "The Burnt District" after the fire of 1776. Washington occupied the middle one of the houses during the second session of the First Congress.

The houses were afterward turned into a hotel, known as Mansion House, and it was the leading hotel of the city.

This site is of interest as being the spot where the first habitation of white men was erected on the Island.

Print No. 4. Trinity Church Ruins, 1776

This shows the ruins of Trinity after the disastrous fire of 1776. The present Trinity is the third church of that name on this site. The first was erected in 1697.

Print No. 5. City Hotel, Trinity and St. Paul's, 1831

The City Hotel was built in 1806 at the corner of Cedar street. It stood on the site of the old De Lancey House, which had been the scene of the first "Inauguration Ball" in Washington's time. In this hotel it was considered that the acme of luxury and magnificence had been reached.

An interesting explanation of the narrowness of Thames street is found in the fact that it was originally a carriage drive from the De Lancey House to the stables.

Print No. 6. Bridge Across Broadway, 1852

In 1852 "the great volume of traffic" on Broadway at Fulton street led the street commissioner to plan this bridge. A bridge was actually erected here in 1866, but it was soon torn down, as "it was so crowded with sightseers there was no room for pedestrians."

Print No. 7. Broadway Stages and St. Paul's, 1831

This print shows the number of stages plying Broadway at this time. Stages continued to run on Broadway until 1886. St. Paul's was built in 1766, facing the river, which at that time came up to Greenwich street.

Print No. 8. Astor House, City Hall Park and Barnum's Museum and Moral Lecture Room, 1842

The Astor House was opened in 1837. The ground on which the Post Office stands was at that time included in City Hall Park. Barnum's Museum was opened in 1842. The building had before that date been occupied by Scudder's Museum.

Print No. 9. Proposed Elevated on Broadway, 1854

This print shows the proposed elevated as it was to appear near Park place. The intention was to have a passageway for pedestrians next to the buildings and have the cars run over the outside edge of the sidewalk. The entrance to the elevated was to be through the stores. It was hoped "that the storekeepers would see the advantage of having the public pass through their stores."

The feeling of the present-day storekeepers on this score is shown by the expense they are willing to go to to furnish passageways to the elevated and subway. The house No. 235, shown in the print, was occupied by Mayor Philip Hone between 1821 to 1847.

Print No. 10. Buildings in City Hall Park, 1809

This space has been variously called the Fields and the Commons. During the Dutch period criminals were executed here, and at one time a portion of it was used as a Potter's Field. "The Brick Cell" or City Prison was built in 1775, and torn down in 1848. "The City Hall"—which was then and is still considered the most beautiful building in the city—was finished in 1812.

Print No. 11. Contoiti's Garden, 1830

This Garden was between Leonard and Franklin on the west side of Broadway, at about No. 355. This was a favorite place of refreshment of the fashionable set. The first Garden by this name was near Park place, but Contoiti moved from there in 1809.

Print No. 12. Bourne Store, 1832 No. 359 Broadway

For a number of years G. Melksham Bourne kept a picture and stationery store here. He published a very fine and authentic series of New York views called "Bourne's Pictorial Views of New York." The painting by John Rae, which is reproduced for the first time and appears on the cover of this portfolio, shows an interior view of Bourne's store.

Print No. 13. Stone Bridge and Tavern, 1812, Corner of Canal and Broadway

The canal was dug to drain the swamp and marshy land called Lispenard's Meadow. This bridge was erected by the British during the Revolution.

Print No. 14. Lispenard's Meadow, 1785

At this time all of the land in the vicinity of Canal street and west of Broadway was a marshy tract that had previously been a swamp. After having been drained it was called Lispenard's Meadow. All that remains of the meadow is the tiny park at the west end of Canal street.

Print No. 15. Broadway, East Side, Between Grand and Howard Streets, 1840

This shows Tattersall's Horse Market, the building having been erected in 1819, first used as a circus, then converted into a theater. The Olympic Theatre is also shown; this was erected in 1837.

Print No. 16. Junction of Broadway and Bowery, 1831

This print shows what is now 14th street, Fourth avenue and Broadway. Fourth avenue was then the Bowery.

Print No. 17. Union Square, 1851

Union square was first laid out as a park in 1815. The junction of so many streets at this point first suggested the idea of a park here.

Print No. 18. Buck Horn Tavern, 1812, Broadway, Between 21st and 22d Streets, East Side

This hostelry stood for a number of years ten or fifteen feet above the present grade of Broadway. The part of Broadway north of Union square was then called Bloomingdale road.

Print No. 19. Madison Cottage, 1847, B'way and 23d St

This tavern was quite a noted one and was kept for a number of years by Corporal Thompson. This was torn down to make way for the Hippodrome.

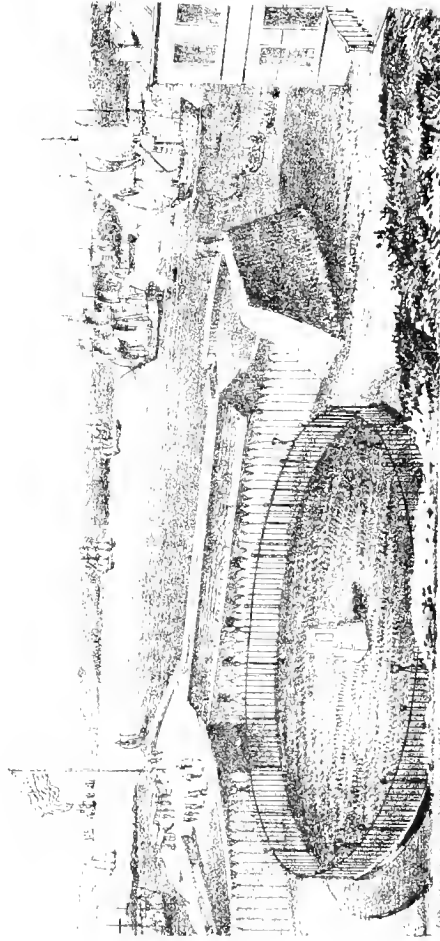
Print No. 20. Franconi's Hippodrome, 1853 Broadway, at 23d Street

This was erected in 1853, and torn down in 1856, to make way for the present Fifth Avenue Hotel. The performances here were on a grand scale, the advertisements stating that the services of "fifty thirty supernumeraries are needed to properly depict the gorgeous spectacles, pageants," etc.

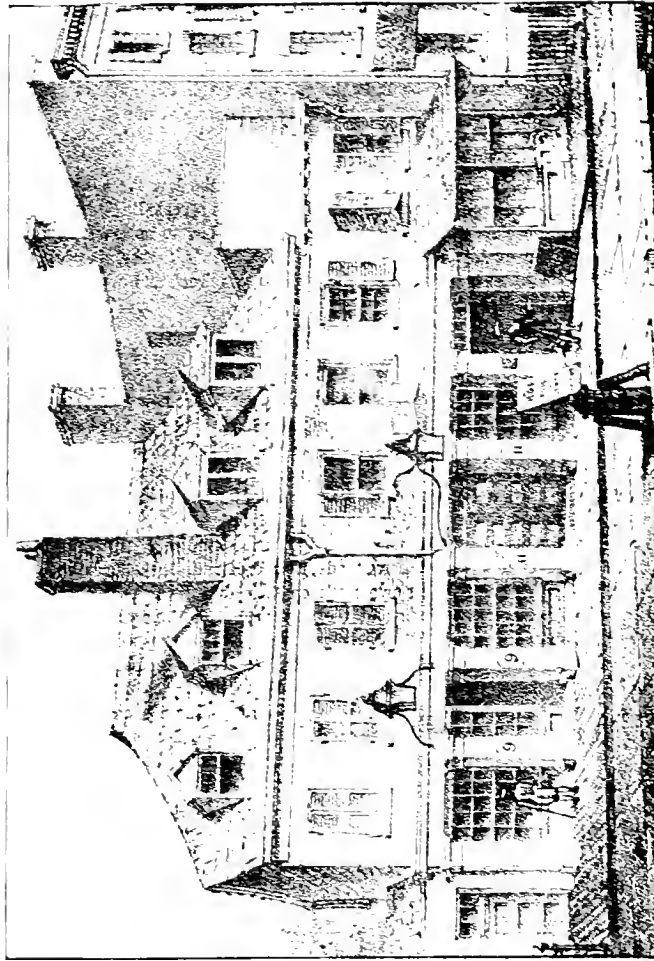
THE BROADWAY OF YESTERDAY is the first of the series of Old New York portfolios to be issued by us under the direction of The National Society for Historical Research. The second will be twenty prints of *The Pleasure Resorts of Old New York* with a full description and story of each, by Charles Hemstreet, author of "Nooks and Corners of Old New York," "When Old New York Was Young," "Literary New York," Etc. These portfolios will be uniform with The Broadway of Yesterday and will be issued as rapidly as the necessary material can be gathered.

¶ Portfolios may be obtained of your bookseller or art dealer or direct from us for two dollars and fifty cents; single prints, seventy-five cents each.

The Cadwallader Publishing Co.
96 Fifth Avenue, New York

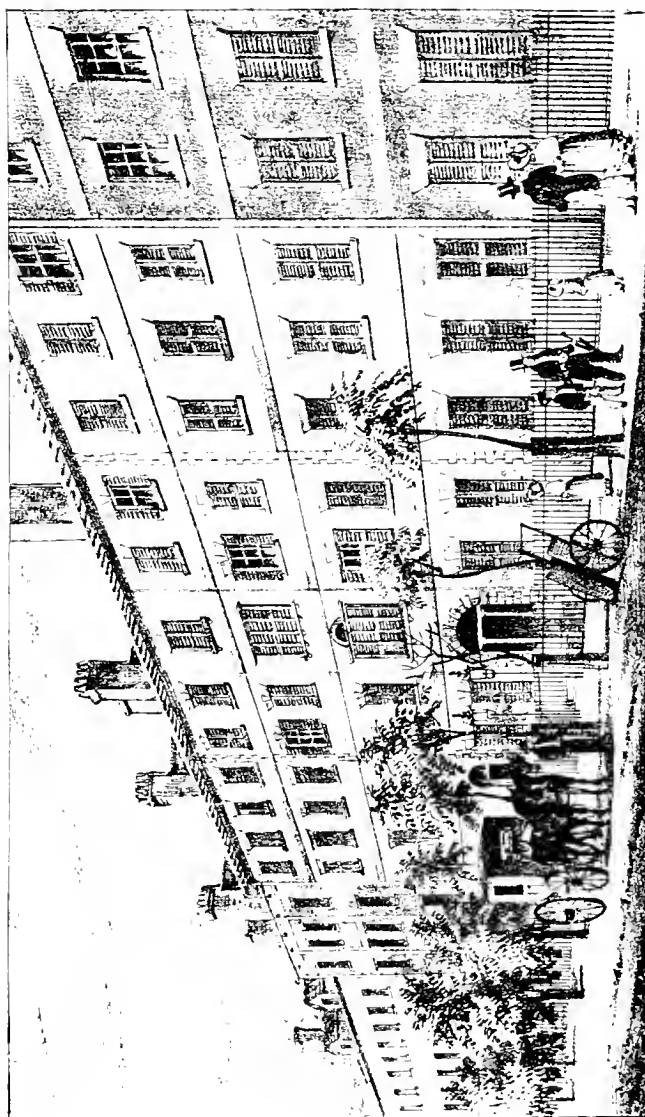


BATTERY & BOWLING GREEN, N.Y.
as it appeared during the Revolution



ATLANTIC GARDEN HOUSE LEURS' COFFEE HOUSE, in 1765.
Broadway, opposite Bowling Green.

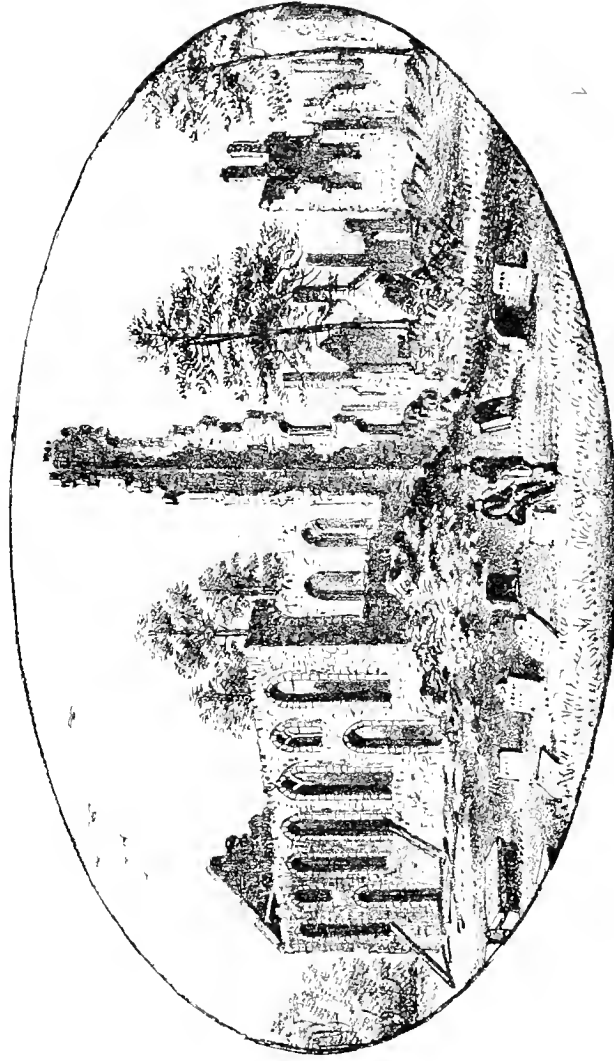
After others look at



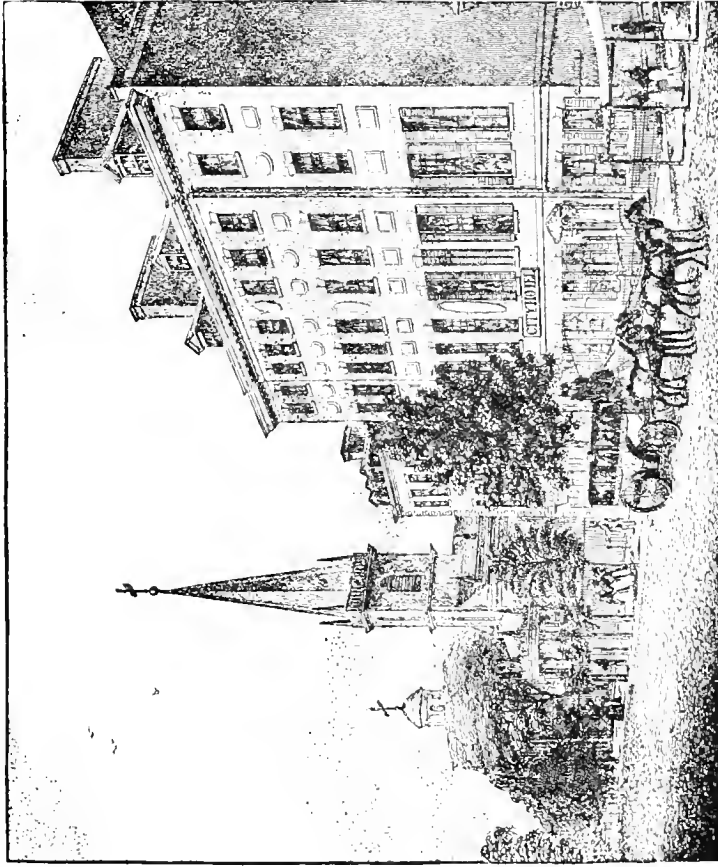
MANSION HOUSE, (BUNKERS,) BROADWAY, NEW-YORK.

1831.

Residence of General Washington during the 3rd Session of the First Congress

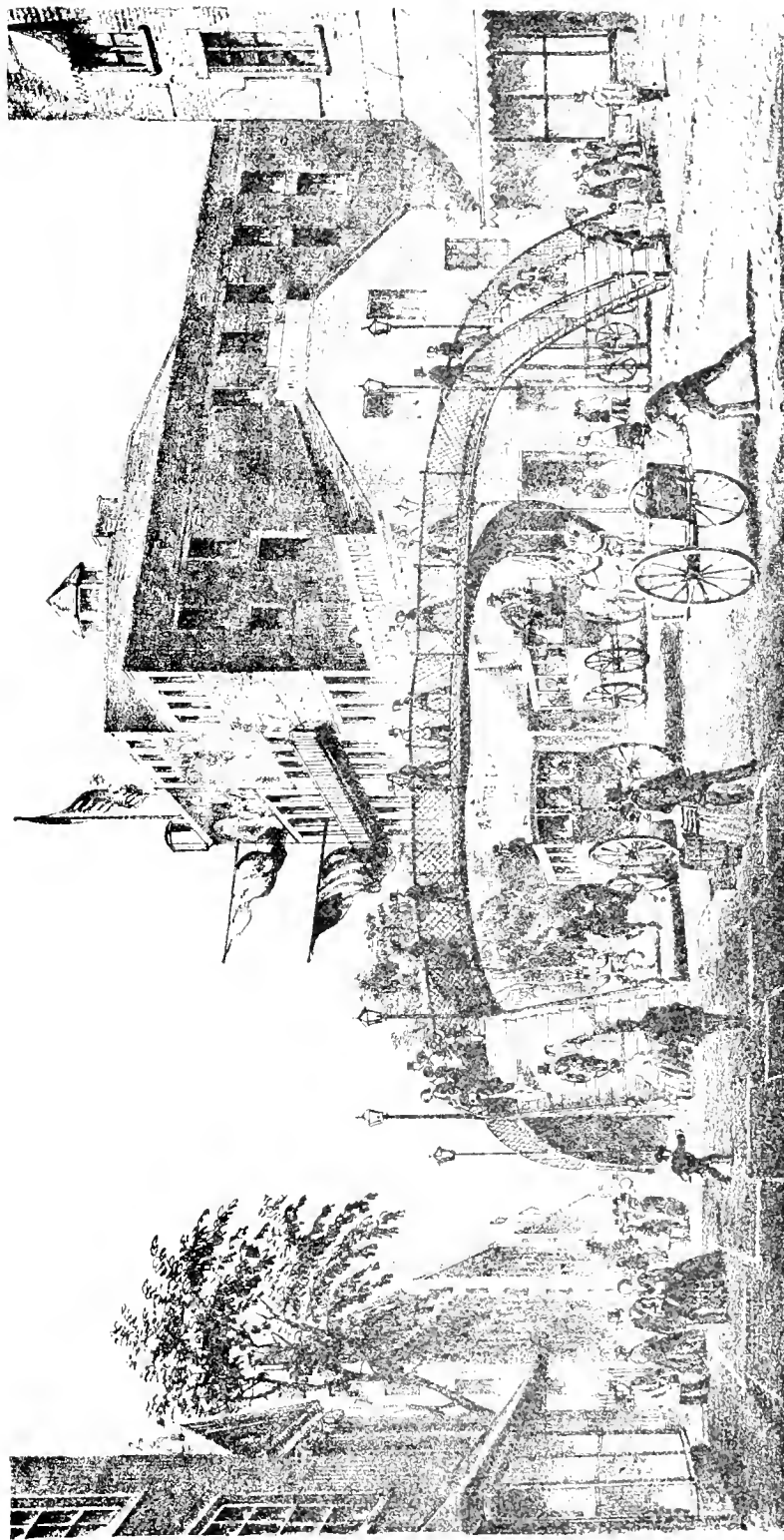


View of the Ruins of Trinity Church after the great fire in 1770, taken by Thos. Barrow



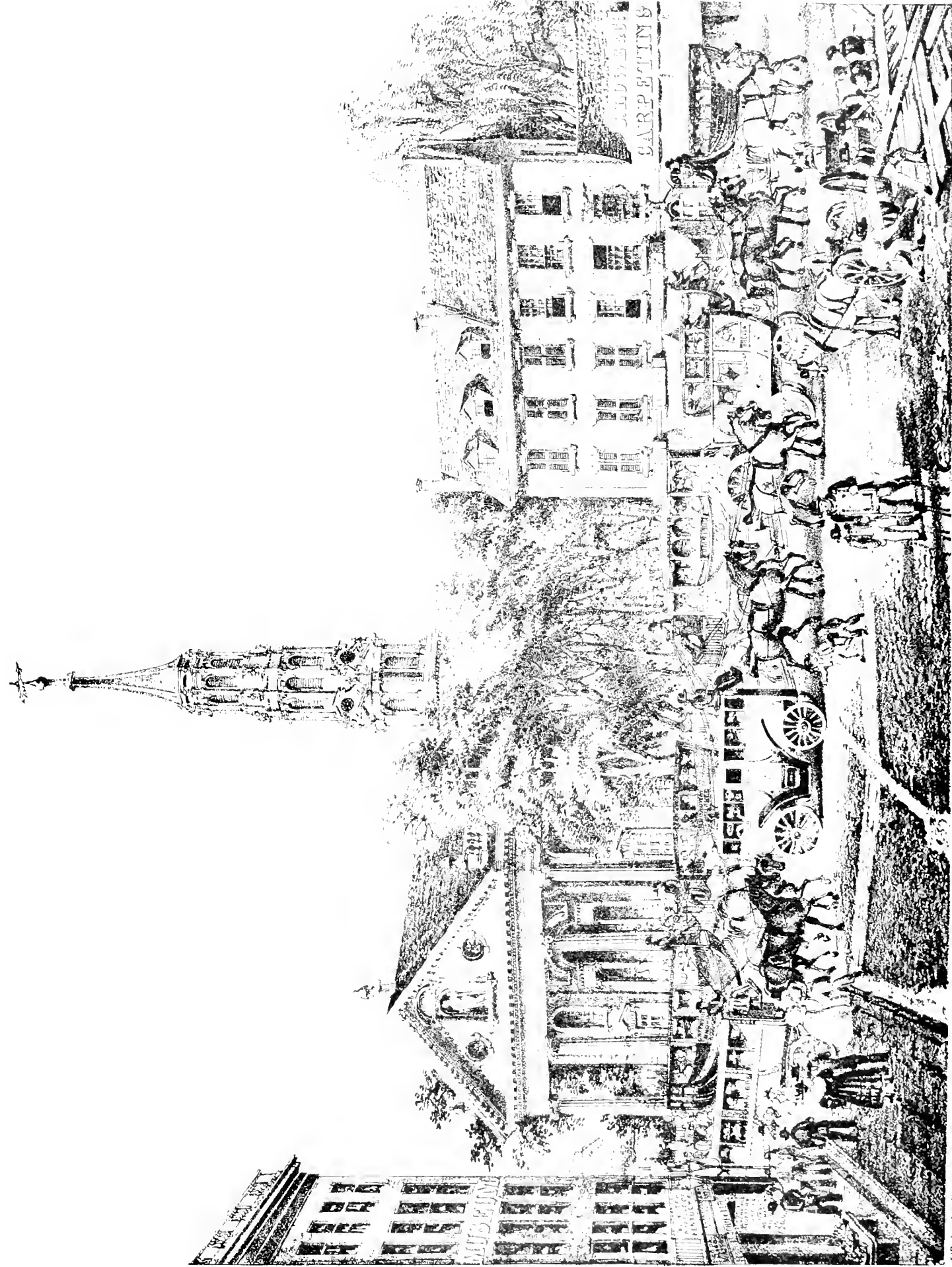
Grace Church Trinity Church

VIEW OF BROADWAY, 1831

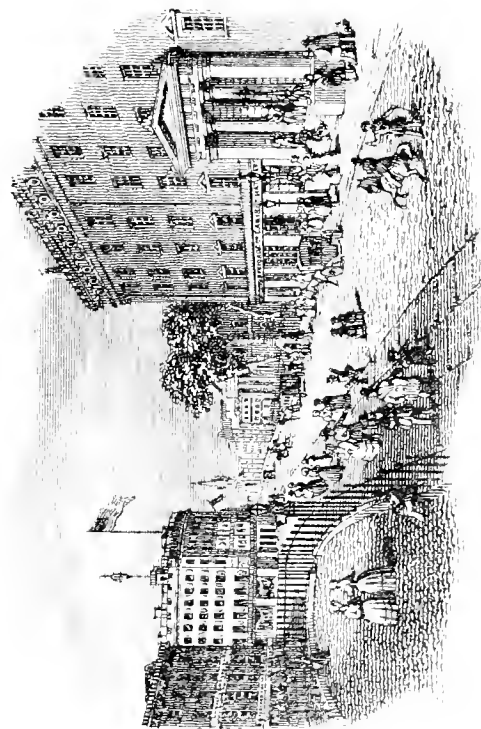


PLAN FOR THE RELIEF OF BROADWAY PRESENTED TO THE COMMON COUNCIL OCTOBER 4th 1852, BY JOHN T. DODGE, STREET COMMISSIONER

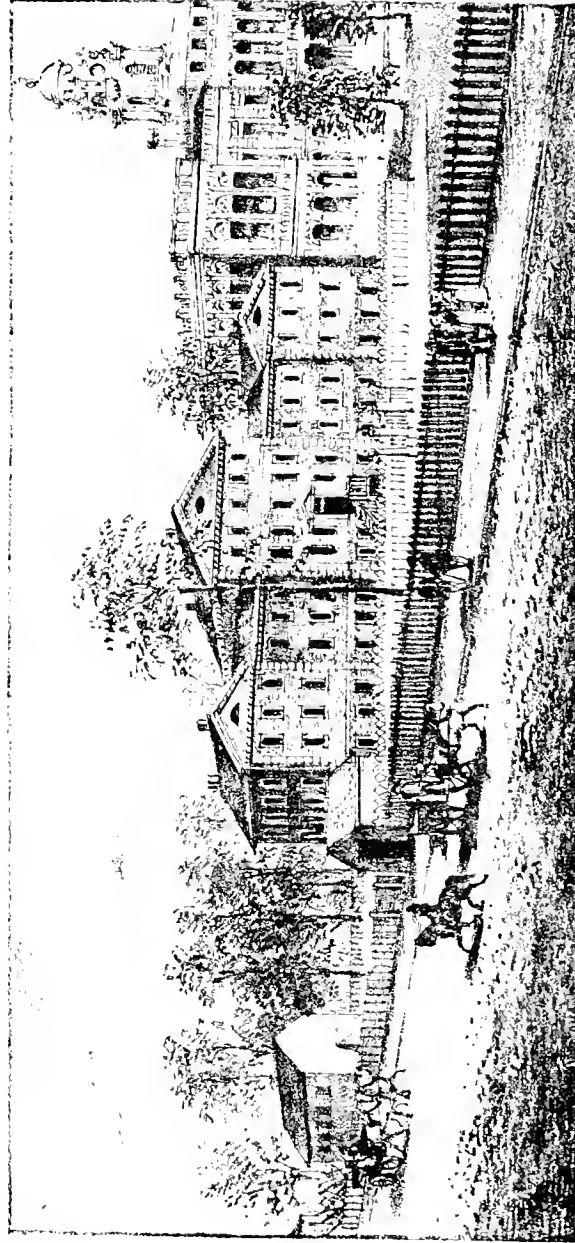
With a width of 100 feet, 10 feet on each side of the arch, and 14 feet on each side of the street, estimated at \$1500.



VIEWS OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH AND THE PRINCEWAY STAGES, N.Y. 1851.



MUSEUM CITY HALL PARK ASTOR HOUSE
BROADWAY, N. Y. 1842



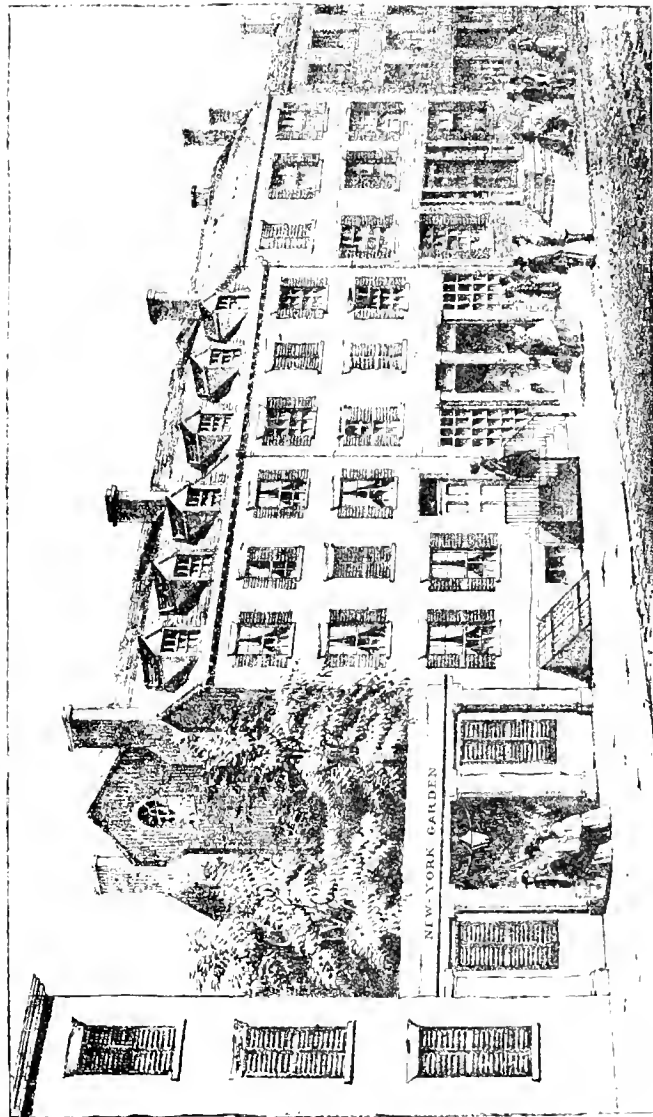
School

Engine House

Bridewell

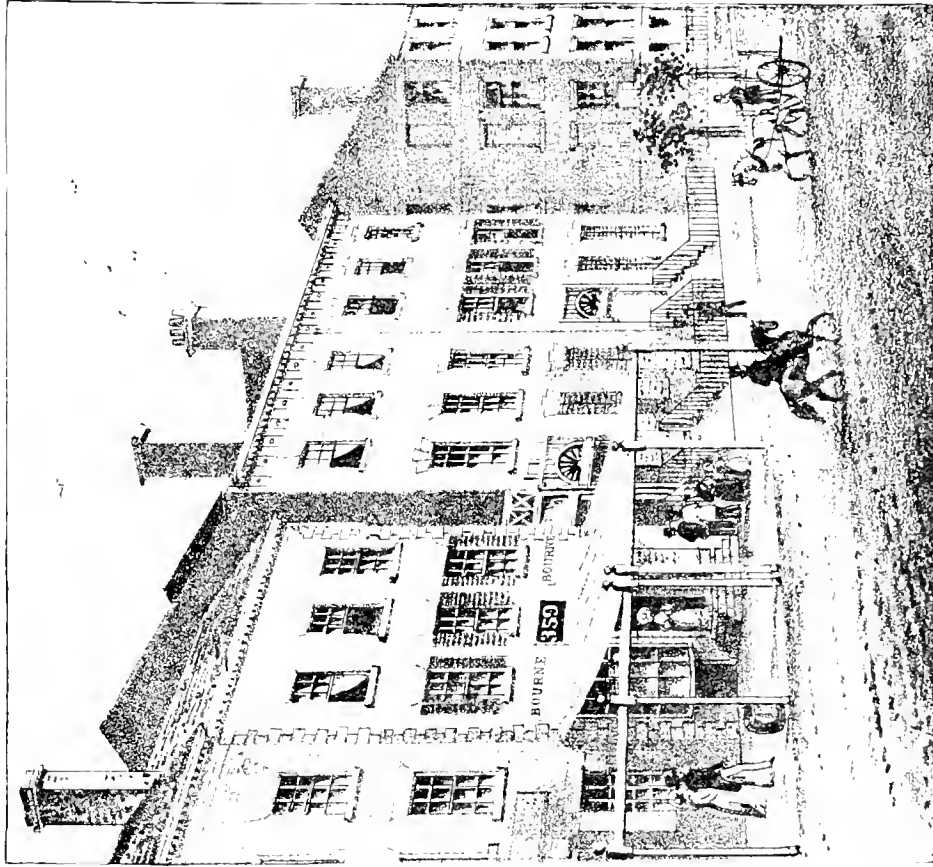
VIEW OF BUILDINGS IN THE PARK, N. Y. 1809

Cut Hall

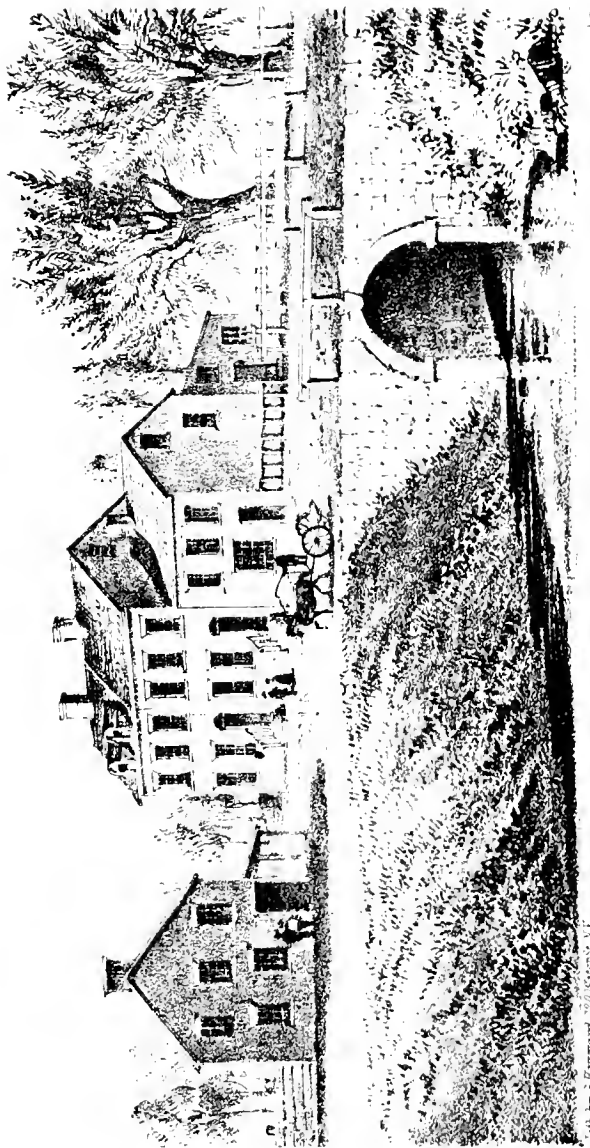


CONTUIT'S GARDEN
Broadway, N.Y. 1834

Engraved by J. H. B. 1834

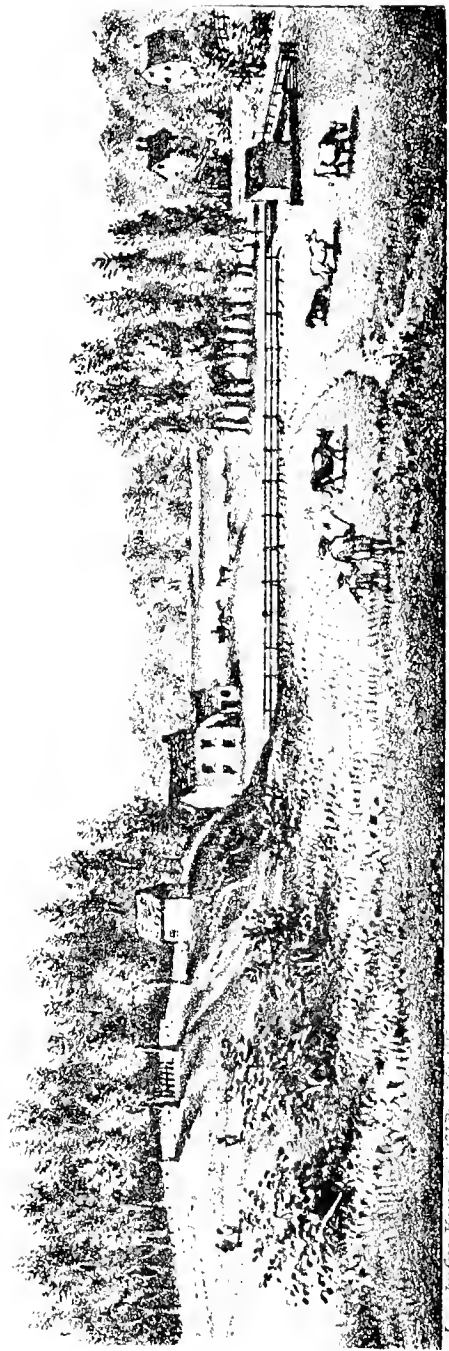


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BOURNE HOUSE
Broadway near Franklin St. N.Y.

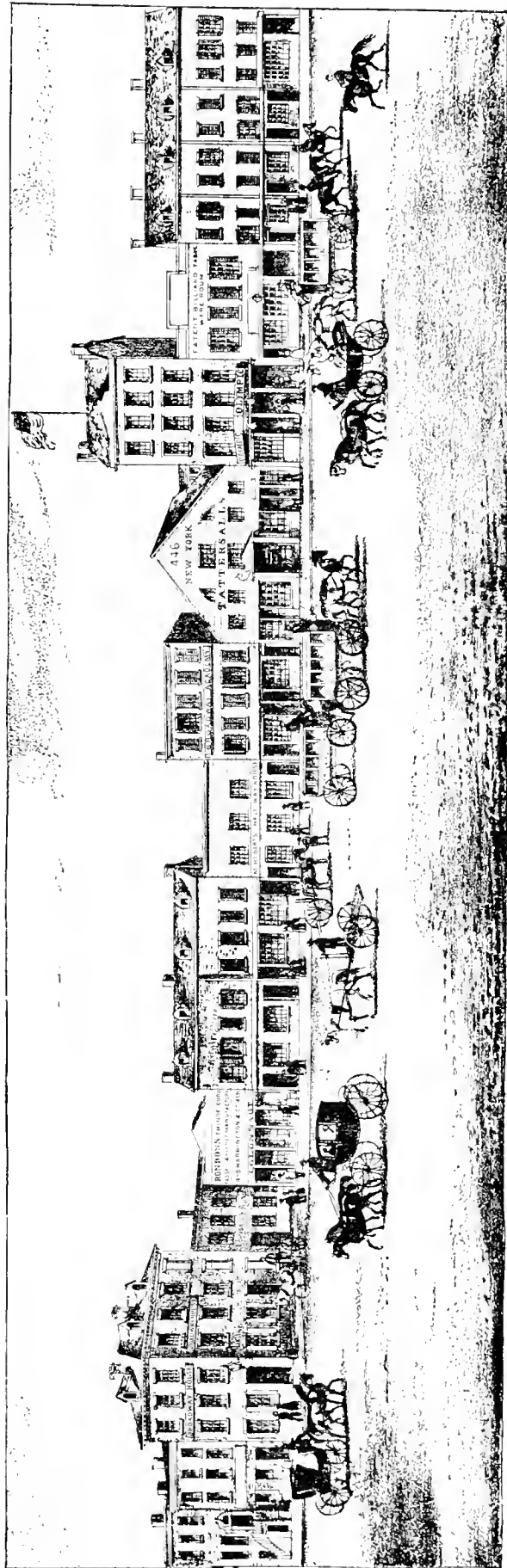


STONE BRIDGE TAVERN & GARDEN
Canal St. & Broadway, N.Y. 1812.

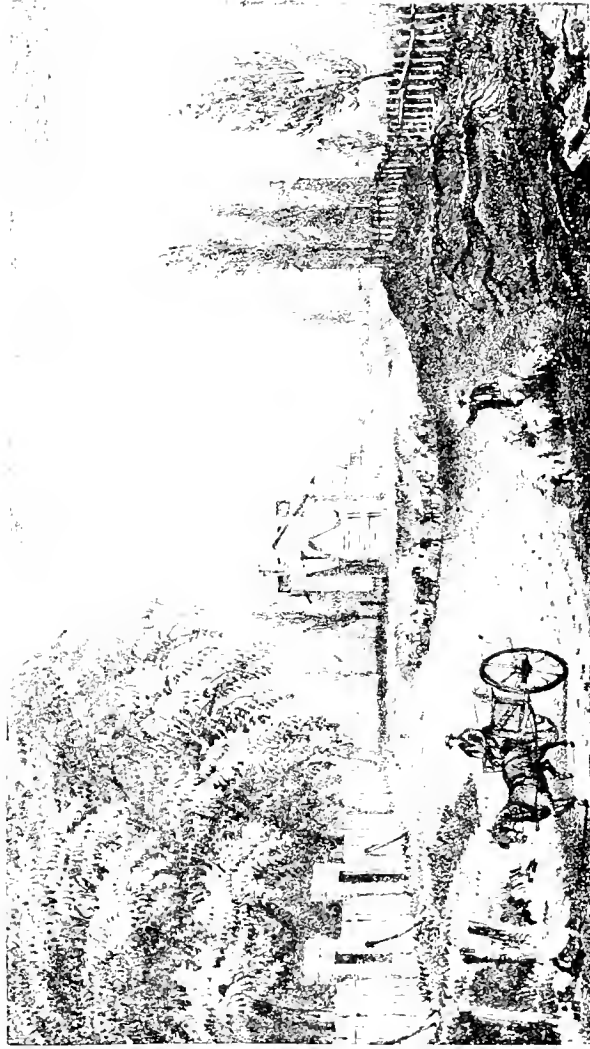
Engraved by J. Hayward. 250 NASSAU ST.



LISPENARD'S MEADOWS.
*Taken from the N.E. cor of the present Broadway & Spring St.
Drawn by A. Anderson, 1785.*



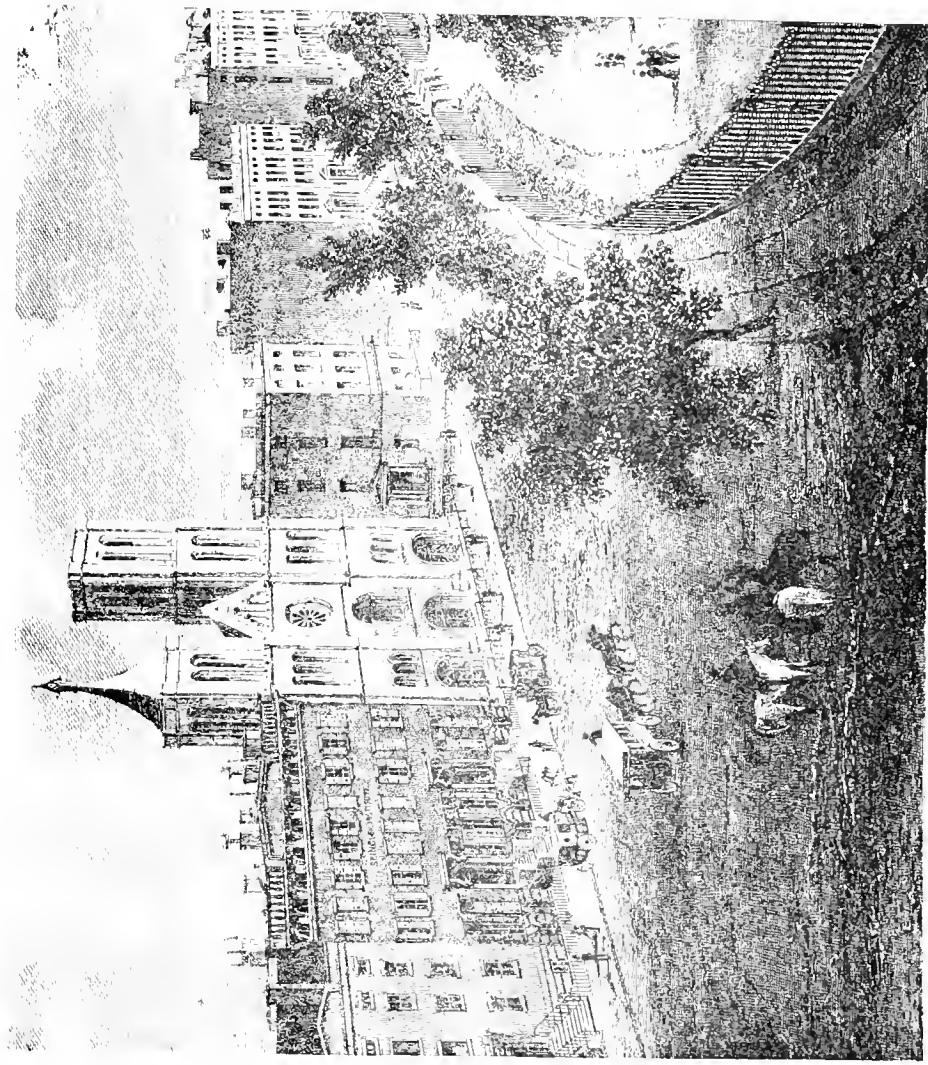
WIDENING OF BROADWAY, N. Y.
between Howard & Canal Streets, 1810.



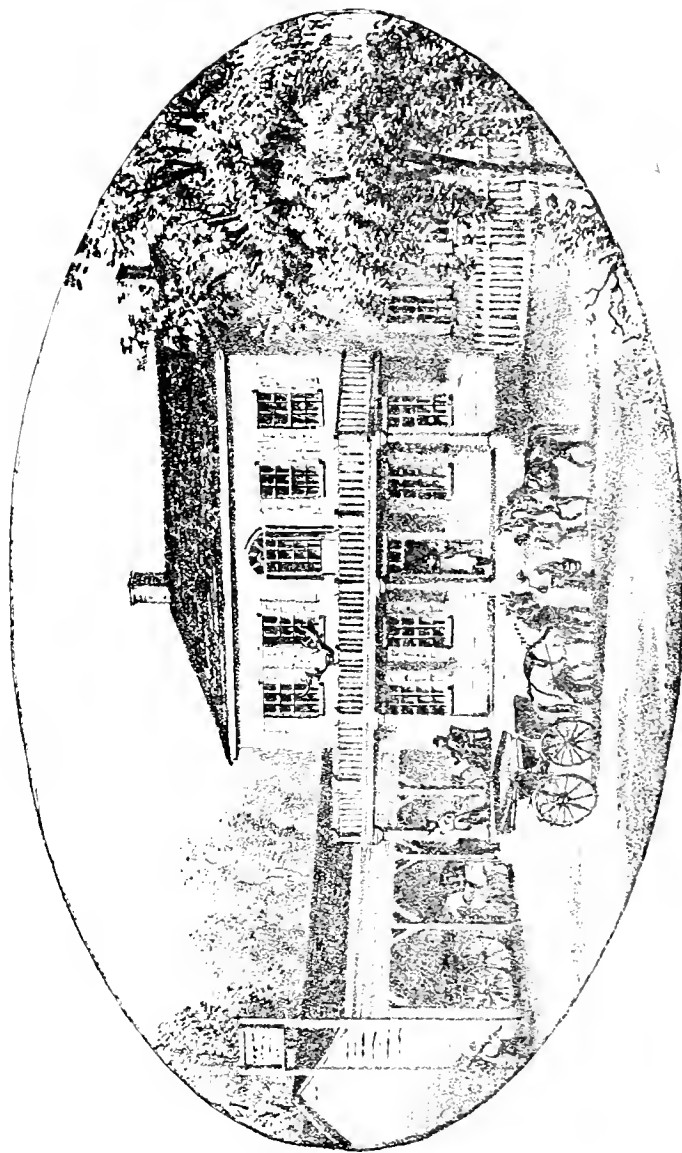
JUNCTION OF BROADWAY & THE HOWLAND RIVER.

New-York.

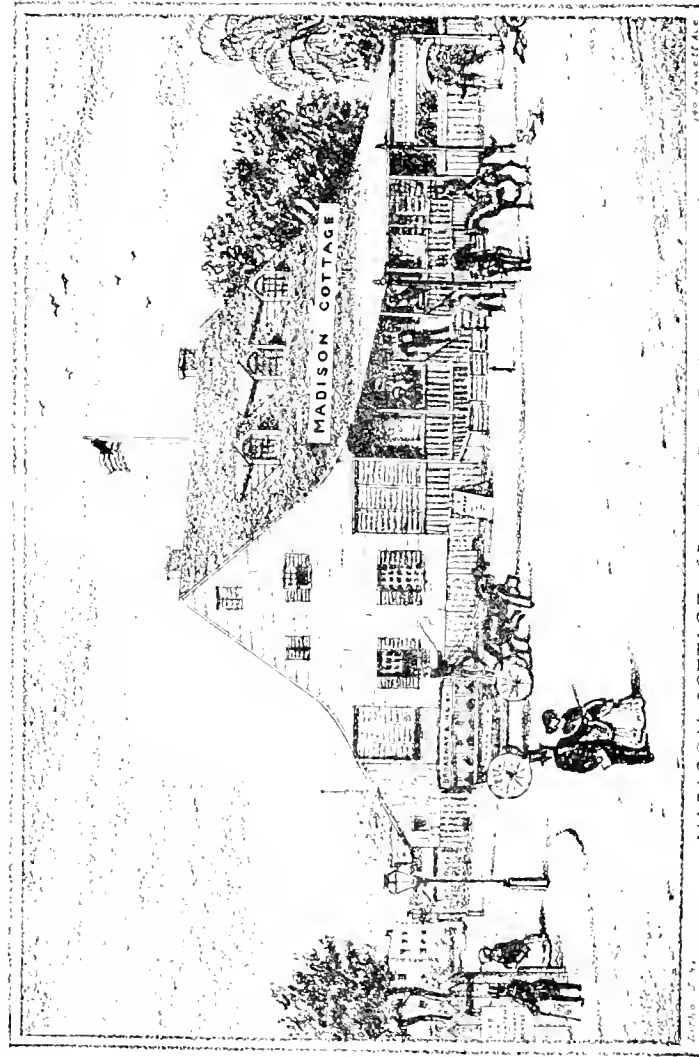
Engraved by J. H. Johnson, New-York.



SPINGLER INSTITUTE & CHURCH OF THE PURITANS, UNION SQUARE, N.Y. 1851.

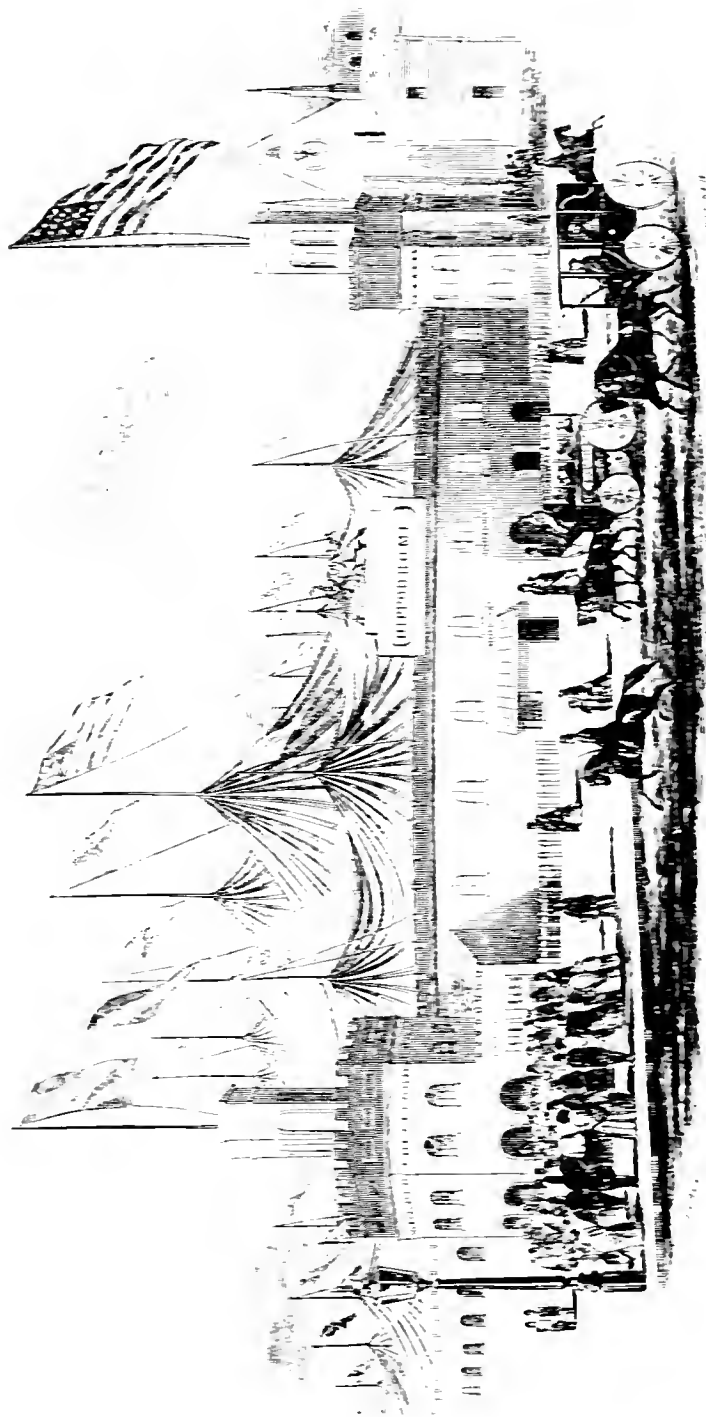


BUCK HORN TAVERN, 22ND ST. BROADWAY.
1812



MADISON COTTAGE (Junction of Bluff, 5th Ave & 23rd St. 1853)

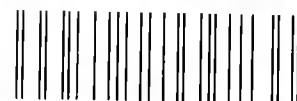
1853 JAN 12 ALB



N. FRANKLIN'S HIPPODROME (N. on Broadway & 2nd St.) 1855.

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